REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and prompt and favorable consideration of the subject application, in light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

By way of the foregoing amendments to the specification, the specification has been amended to insert the substitute Sequence Listing to replace the Sequence Listing filed with the application on November 13, 1998. In addition, the specification and Claim 20 have been amended to add corresponding SEQ ID NOS into the text. No new matter has been introduced.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment and Reply, or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 17, 2002

Attachment to Supplemental Preliminary Amendment and Reply dated December 17, 2002

Mark-up of Specification

Paragraph beginning on page 14, line 26 and ending on page 15, line 5

An unrelated peptide (SEQ ID NO.:2) having the amino acid sequence of NH_2-Arg-Ile-Gln-Arg-Gly-Pro-Gly-Arg-Ala-Phe-Val-Thr-Ile-Gly-Lys, originally obtained from the HIVgp120 protein, was also coated onto gold powder in the same manner as was described above. To determine the extent of peptide loading onto the gold, a tritiated (H^3) version of the HIV peptide was carried through the loading procedure, and the number of bound counts was determined. From this analysis, it was determined that each carrier sheet contained approximately 5 μg of peptide. The tritiated peptide assay indicated that only about one-third of the amount of the peptide added to the gold beads ultimately remained bound to the carrier sheet. It was assumed that the loading rate of the influenza NP peptide onto the gold particles was comparable to that of the HIVgp120 peptide.

Attachment to Supplemental Preliminary Amendment and Reply dated December 17, 2002

Mark-up of Claims

20. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the peptide has the sequence (SEQ ID NO.:1) TYQRTRALV.